

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Terminal block for a cable connector, comprising a housing of insulating material, a number of signal contacts accommodated in contact cavities of the housing, at least one ground contact arranged between two adjacent signal contacts, and a planar circuit substrate having a ground layer on one side and circuit tracks on the opposite side connected to the signal contacts at one end and having a solder island for connection to a signal wire at the other end, characterized in that the ground contact comprises a 5 shielding contact blade having a contact lip connected to the ground layer of the circuit substrate and at least one contact lip projecting outwardly to contact the ground layer of a corresponding terminal block.

2. Terminal block according to claim 1, wherein 15 the shielding contact blade is part of a shielding element comprising the contact lips and one or more shielding contact blades.

3. Terminal block according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each shielding contact blade comprises a contact end 20 projecting out of the housing to contact a contact lip of a mating connector.

4. Terminal block according to claim 3, wherein the housing is provided with at least one recess for receiving a contact lip of a mating connector in both main surfaces, the contact end of each shielding contact blade projecting 25 into a corresponding recess.

5. Terminal block according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each shielding contact blade is accommodated in a slot of the housing and/or is provided with 30 an overmoulding of insulating material.

6. Terminal block according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the contact lip of the shielding contact blade is soldered to a solder island on the circuit track side of the circuit substrate, wherein this solder is-

land is connected to the ground layer through a plated through hole.

5       7. Terminal block according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a shielding contact blade is arranged between each two adjacent signal contacts or adjacent groups of signal contacts.

10      8. Terminal block for a cable connector according to the preamble of claim 1, wherein the ground contact comprises a shielding element having a contact lip connected to the ground layer of the circuit substrate and at least one contact lip projecting outwardly to contact the ground layer of a corresponding terminal block.

15      9. Terminal block according to claim 8, wherein the shielding element is provided with at least one contact spring for contacting a contact lip of a mating connector.

10: Terminal block according to claim 9, wherein each contact spring is received in a recess in a main surface of the housing, wherein a signal contact is located in a contact cavity below said recess.

20      11. Cable connector, comprising a plurality of stacked terminal blocks according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the contact lips of the shielding contact blades or elements, respectively, of one terminal block are contacting the ground layer of the circuit substrate of a next terminal block.

30      12. Connector assembly, comprising a cable connector and a mating connector, said cable connector having a plurality of stacked terminal blocks, each terminal block comprising a number of signal contacts, at least one ground contact arranged between two adjacent signal contacts, and a planar circuit substrate having a ground layer on one side and circuit tracks on the opposite side connected to the signal contacts at one end and having a solder island for connection to a signal wire at the other end, said mating connector having a number of right-angled contact elements arranged in rows and columns, and at least one right-angled shielding plate arranged between two adjacent rows of con-

tact elements, characterized in that each ground contact of a terminal block of the cable connector comprises a vertical shielding contact blade having a contact lip connected to the ground layer of the circuit substrate and at least one 5 contact lip projecting outwardly and contacting the ground layer of a corresponding terminal block, and in that in the mating connector a right-angled shielding plate is arranged between each two adjacent rows of contact elements, wherein adjacent columns or adjacent groups of columns of contact 10 elements are separated by a vertical shielding plate, wherein the right-angled and vertical shielding plates are provided with slots receiving the vertical and right-angled shielding plates, respectively, wherein contact parts are provided for interconnecting the right-angled and vertical 15 shielding plates, wherein each shielding contact blade is contacting a contact lip of a vertical shielding plate.